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CHILD AID HOSTS “COVID-19 MYTH-BUSTING HAPPY HOURS” FOR STAFF IN GUATEMALA

Literacy nonprofit Child Aid, as part of its ongoing educational mission, holds virtual staff get-togethers led by Dr. Esther Han, a Johns Hopkins-trained physician, to review latest COVID-19 information and dispel myths surrounding vaccination and treatment.

- Child Aid equips staff in Guatemala to inform remote communities about the latest COVID-19 information and best-practices vaccination protocols.
- Informational meetings prove pivotal to getting Child Aid staff in Guatemala to accept the vaccines and advocate for them in communities.

Portland, Oregon, May 17, 2021 — Literacy nonprofit Child Aid launches ongoing COVID-19 informational and best-practices virtual meetings – “COVID-19 Myth Busting Happy Hours” for our staff and led by respected physicians. These informal meetings center around questions submitted anonymously from staff members and are meant to dispel dangerous myths surrounding COVID-19 and vaccination protocols.

These meetings encourage Child Aid staff to get vaccinated and encourage other community members to follow suit. Additionally, Child Aid staff include medically factual information about COVID-19 in weekly educational radio broadcasts that permeate rural Guatemala.

“Part of Child Aid’s value in Guatemala is how integrated our organization is in remote communities where we work. By dispelling COVID-19 myths for our staff and equipping them with the most accurate and vetted information, we are acting as conduits of reliable medical information to some of the most at-risk communities in the world,” says Child Aid CEO Nancy Press.

A sampling of questions gathered anonymously from staff include:

- Can vaccinations cause infertility in men or women?
- Should children get vaccinated?
- Is vaccination recommended for pregnant women?
- Are the current vaccines effective against the emerging COVID-19 variants?
- How long does immunity last once a person is vaccinated?

“After Dr. Esther Han, a well-respected physician who has worked extensively with Child Aid, answered staff questions about the vaccine, many of our staff members who had resisted getting the COVID-19 vaccine are now interested in getting it and recommending it to others in the communities where they live and work,” said Child Aid Country Director Graciela Landa Pichiya.

THE PROBLEM:

Though it has been nearly three months since Guatemala received its first shipment of vaccine, only .2 percent of the nation’s nearly 18 million people are vaccinated, [according to devex.com](https://devex.com). While the reasons for this low vaccine rate are complicated, misinformation and mistrust among the Guatemalan people plays a part in the overall sluggish vaccination rate. Child Aid is a trusted organization in hundreds of remote Guatemalan communities where our literacy organization has worked for more than a decade. Our informed staff are a reliable and trusted source of information for many Guatemalan communities.

For more information about Child Aid’s “COVID-19 Myth Busting Happy Hours” or to arrange interviews with Child Aid CEO Nancy Press, Child Aid Country

Director Graciela Landa Pichiya or Dr. Esther Han,
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ABOUT CHILD AID: We are a Portland-based literacy nonprofit working to bring books and comprehensive teacher training to elementary-age children in some of the poorest communities in Guatemala. To date, our organization works in 211 schools, reaching nearly 81,000 children with transformative education and literacy skills.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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